

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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Absentee Ballots Issued Exceeds 225,000

MADISON, WI – As of late Monday, Wisconsin municipal clerks have reported that 225,973 absentee ballots have been issued and 209,169 absentee ballots have been returned for tomorrow's Presidential Primary and Spring Election. These figures include 136,947 ballots issued in-person in clerks' offices. Those ballots are stored securely and then counted on Election Day at the polls or an alternate location. A breakdown of the absentee ballots issued and returned in each county is attached.

Absentee ballots sent to voters by mail must be postmarked by April 5, 2016 and received by the municipal clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2016 in order to be included in the final tally.

The G.A.B. has projected that 1.75 million Wisconsin residents – or 40 percent of eligible voters – will vote in the 2016 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary, which would be the highest turnout since 1980 for an April election.

Kevin Kennedy, Wisconsin's chief elections official, cautioned that the absentee numbers released are partial and preliminary. While a new law enacted in March requires municipal clerks to record absentee ballot data within 48 hours of issuance and return, some of the data tracking those ballots may not be entered yet.

In the April 2012 Presidential Preference Primary, there were a total of 94,859 absentee ballots out of 1,127,414 total ballots cast. Of the 94,859 absentee ballots, 27,085 were in-person absentee. The increased number of absentee ballots in 2016 can be attributed to the expected increase in voter turnout and a continuing emphasis on voting early by political campaigns.

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics, and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. consists of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.

**2016 Wisconsin Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election
Absentee Ballots Issued and Returned -- By County**

County	Ballots Sent Count	Ballots Returned Count	Difference
ADAMS COUNTY	395	363	32
ASHLAND COUNTY	290	268	22
BARRON COUNTY	832	769	63
BAYFIELD COUNTY	581	501	80
BROWN COUNTY	12013	11236	777
BUFFALO COUNTY	162	145	17
BURNETT COUNTY	149	130	19
CALUMET COUNTY	1399	1340	59
CHIPPEWA COUNTY	1679	1456	223
CLARK COUNTY	323	259	64
COLUMBIA COUNTY	1038	917	121
CRAWFORD COUNTY	244	210	34
DANE COUNTY	27568	25297	2271
DODGE COUNTY	1241	1183	58
DOOR COUNTY	1633	1427	206
DOUGLAS COUNTY	934	843	91
DUNN COUNTY	758	711	47
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY	4411	4173	238
FLORENCE COUNTY	109	96	13
FOND DU LAC COUNTY	3238	2985	253
FOREST COUNTY	37	35	2
GRANT COUNTY	1054	979	75
GREEN COUNTY	409	391	18
GREEN LAKE COUNTY	458	429	29
IOWA COUNTY	731	665	66
IRON COUNTY	157	152	5
JACKSON COUNTY	222	172	50
JEFFERSON COUNTY	2675	2484	191
JUNEAU COUNTY	353	200	153
KENOSHA COUNTY	7424	7074	350
KEWAUNEE COUNTY	502	460	42
LA CROSSE COUNTY	6558	6319	239
LAFAYETTE COUNTY	153	140	13
LANGLADE COUNTY	460	397	63

LINCOLN COUNTY	500	437	63
MANITOWOC COUNTY	2462	2336	126
MARATHON COUNTY	3908	3590	318
MARINETTE COUNTY	1106	1016	90
MARQUETTE COUNTY	19	18	1
MENOMINEE COUNTY	36	36	0
MILWAUKEE COUNTY	39535	36421	3114
MONROE COUNTY	790	749	41
OCONTO COUNTY	667	581	86
ONEIDA COUNTY	1201	1063	138
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY	9025	8512	513
OZAUKEE COUNTY	7200	6740	460
PEPIN COUNTY	69	59	10
PIERCE COUNTY	831	752	79
POLK COUNTY	129	102	27
PORTAGE COUNTY	2553	2422	131
PRICE COUNTY	342	295	47
RACINE COUNTY	6633	5407	1226
RICHLAND COUNTY	294	252	42
ROCK COUNTY	4767	4503	264
RUSK COUNTY	258	215	43
SAUK COUNTY	2106	1915	191
SAWYER COUNTY	397	335	62
SHAWANO COUNTY	836	716	120
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY	4067	3649	418
ST. CROIX COUNTY	1988	1848	140
TAYLOR COUNTY	323	225	98
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY	308	269	39
VERNON COUNTY	483	417	66
VILAS COUNTY	2	0	2
WALWORTH COUNTY	4122	3746	376
WASHBURN COUNTY	243	180	63
WASHINGTON COUNTY	7804	7387	417
WAUKESHA COUNTY	29506	28218	1288
WAUPACA COUNTY	1327	1226	101
WAUSHARA COUNTY	421	343	78
WINNEBAGO COUNTY	7332	6944	388
WOOD COUNTY	2193	2039	154